#7

HUH?
COLLAPSE

SORRY...
KENZAKI...?
I GET IT!! YOU AREN'T SAYING YOU'LL REALLY BREAK UP!!

YOU AREN'T SAYING THAT YOU'LL ACTUALLY GO OUT WITH ME AFTER YOU'VE BROKEN UP WITH HIM EITHER!!
BUT
I'M... SCARED...!!
DOESN'T THE FACT THAT YOU CAN SAY SUCH A THING TO ME WITH SUCH GREAT TIMING MEANS YOU ACTUALLY DON'T HAVE A PULSE...?
IF... YOU AND I BECAME LIKE THAT... WHEN WE BROKE UP... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME... NH...

SHUT UP!! YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU COULD BREAK UP WITH THAT TAKAAKI TOO, AREN'T YOU!?
IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NO REASON IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN WITH ME!!
TALKING OF BREAKING UP BEFORE EVEN GOING OUT?
IF THIS HAPPENS EVEN JUST ONCE WE COULDN'T RETURN TO OUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP WE PROBABLY COULDN'T RETURN TO BEING FRIENDS EITHER
EVEN IF YOU END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE ME ANYMORE YOU WOULDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT THAT'S WHY YOU CAN SAY SUCH THINGS LIGHTLY
Heh
THAT INCOMPREHENSIBLE WAY OF LOSING HIS COOL... IS SO LIKE THIS GUY

FLIP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
HUH-!?
I WON'T THINK NOTHING OF IT THAT'S WHY I'M HERE NOW.
RITSUKO
SHIN-KAWA...?
SHOCK
TAKAAKI-SAN? I...

HUH?!
HUMP
I
I THINK IT'S ALREADY HOPELESS FOR US
TAKAAKI-SAN
LET'S BREAK UP.

BEEP
—UNDERSTOOD.

IT HAPPENED WITHOUT ANY FUSS...
AFTER ALL, THIS IS WHAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WAS BASED ON
...KIND OF TIRED...

CREAK
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT! YOU'RE FREE NOW. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU HAVE SEX WITH.
HEY...
ISN'T THIS SUDDEN...? I'M NOT PARTICULARLY SAYING I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU OR ANYTHING...
IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF PROBLEM. IF IT'S SEX, I CAN DO IT WITH ANY OF THE CUSTOMERS I ASSOCIATE WITH. SO IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOU.

SLAP
DO IT WITH ME.
HUH?
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU FEEL LIKE MAKING LOVE TO ME NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ...
BE QUIET! JUST SHUT UP AND LET ME MAKE LOVE TO YOU!!

CAN'T I MAKE LOVE TO YOU...!?
...I GET DEPRESSED WHEN YOU'RE USELESSLY CAUGHT IN A CRISIS...!!
I CAN COME.
AGAIN LOSING HIS COOL INCOMPREHENSIBLY... I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S BOLD OR TIMID.
ARE YOU OKAY SAYING THAT? I MEAN IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME MAKING LOVE TO A MAN
WHAT'S WITH THAT CONFIDENCE?
Where did it come from?

BECAUSE I FOUND RELEASE WITH YOUR HAND
HUH!? WHEN!?
WHEN YOU WERE SLEEPING HERE
THOUGH IT WAS JUST USING YOUR HAND AS A PROP—
I CAME UNBELIEVABLY EASILY JUST BY THINKING ABOUT HOW IT WAS YOUR HAND

PLOP
I don't feel like getting angry
.....DO AS YOU LIKE.
.....
I WILL...

YOU'RE INCREDIBLY SEXY...
UNF...

THE WOMEN'S BODIES I'VE EMBRACED UNTIL NOW... SEEM LIKE TOYS TO ME
FEELING YOU WITH MY HANDS AND MOUTH I CAN'T HELP BUT BE HAPPY...
I LOVE YOU...
NH...

I LOVE YOU, SHINKAWA!
FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!
YOU'RE FALLING, RIGHT!?

YEAH

HOTEL
Elegant City Hotel
YOU'RE PRETTY DIFFERENT. IF YOU'RE PROPOSITIONING A MAN, WOULDN'T YOU NORMALLY GO TO NICHOLME*?
AND BASED ON THAT APPEARANCE YOU'RE A HOST, RIGHT? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

*Shinjuku District housing gay establishments

YOU'RE RATHER LOUD-MOUTHED. RIGHT NOW THERE SHOULD BE NO USE FOR YOUR MOUTH OTHER THAN MAKING ME FEEL GOOD
OR IS IT A MOUTH THAT WON'T AROUSE WITHOUT CALLING A NAME?
ANYONE IS FINE...

NOW... ANYONE IS...
LEDY'S CLUB
RUSTY NAIL
YOU HAVE ALL WORKED HARD AGAIN THIS MONTH SALES WEREN'T BAD EITHER
REGULATIONS HAVE BECOME STRICT AND IT'S HARD TO DO VARIOUS THINGS BUT KEEP ON DOING YOUR BEST NEXT MONTH AS WELL

NOW,
I'LL HAND OUT
OUR FEES IN ORDER
OF SALES. NUMBER 1
IS KENZAKI!!
YOU'VE
DONE WELL.
THIS MONTH IS
A 50% INCREASE
FROM LAST
MONTH
THANK YOU!

KENZAKI HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED RECENTLY? IT SEEMS YOUR EXPRESSION HAS CHANGED
HUH...? DOES IT?
AREN'T THERE STARS IN YOUR EYES? IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL LOVEY-DOVEY WITH YOUR CURRENT GIRLFRIEND, MANAGER.
SHUT UP!! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
INDEED? THEN IF THINGS ARE GOING WELL IN BOTH WORK AND IN PRIVATE THAT'S THE BEST
SIGH... I GUESS...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, IT SEEMS THE OPENING DAY HAS BEEN DECIDED ON AT SHINKAWA'S STORE.

HAHAHA
I FORGOT. I'VE BEEN TERRIBLY FORGETFUL LATELY.
HE SAID HE WON'T FORGET HOW YOU MENTION THAT YOU'D GIVE HIM DOM PERI TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING IWAKI-SAN
HE'S A GREAT GUY ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW HIM.
BUT IT'S UNEXPECTED YOU'RE ABLE TO MEET WITH SHINKAWA EVEN AFTER HE QUIT THE STORE. HUH? I'D THOUGHT YOU WERE LIKE CATS AND DOGS

SLIDE

LOOKING TO BECOME A HOST?
HUH!?
AH, NO. I'M NOT.
THAT'S TOO BAD. LOOKING AT YOU, IT SEEMS YOU'D PROBABLY BE CUT OUT FOR IT.
IF YOU'D LIKE, WHY NOT TRY IT FOR A BIT? THIS IS MY STORE HERE.
AH... IS IT?
UM... IT WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE PICTURES HERE ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THE STORE, WOULD IT...?
IT'S JUST A PORTION

THEN I COULD PROBABLY FIND HIM BY WALKING AROUND AND LOOKING AT THESE... HE DIDN'T GIVE OFF THE IMPRESSION OF SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T SELL
THE ONES HERE ARE WHAT ARE CALLED THE FACES OF THE STORE. THEY'RE ONLY THE TOP-CLASS HOSTS
BUT THAT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THERE ARE GUYS WITHOUT ANY EXPERIENCE WHO JOIN THESE FACES THE MONTH AFTER THEY JOIN THE STORE
WHAT? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE?
AH... I'M SORRY. WOULD YOU LISTEN A MOMENT?
YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW OF A HOST WHO IS COMPARATIVELY BEAUTIFUL AND GIVES OFF A BIT OF A HOMOSEXUAL VIBE WOULD YOU?
Probably not.
HUH!?

...?
AH, NEVERMIND
I'M SORRY! NEVERMIND
IN BOTH WORK AND IN LIFE
"SPEAKING OF WHICH, SHINKAWA'S STORE"
"SINCE, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CALL HIM, I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF HIM..."
"COMPARATIVELY BEAUTIFUL WHO GIVES OFF A BIT OF A HOMOSEXUAL "FEELING"!"

...NO
WAY...

NAKAMA

PRESENTS

U.V Volume 2

When A Man Loves A Man

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"thx you so much for your hard work and for making this possible!"

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#8

THERE YOU ARE!!
SCHNAPPS

I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!

"WHAT ...?" I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN OF COURSE. I DIDN'T EVEN CATCH YOUR NAME
SCHNAPS
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE A KID WHO WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF MY NOT TELLING YOU MY NAME
I LOOKED ALL OVER AT THOSE PHOTOGRAPHS IN VAIN
I HEARD FROM A HOST WHO CAME OUT EARLIER THAT THIS IS YOUR STORE
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU SEEM TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER DAY!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A PAIN TO SET-UP SHOP IN NICHOLIME SO I SIMPLY PROCURED A SPOT NEARBY
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CALLED OUT TO ME WEREN'T YOU? AND I CAME TO FIND YOU RIGHT!? SHOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY NORMALLY!?

PROCURED!? I WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE YOU SEEMED LONELY
I CAME THINKING YOU MIGHT BE HAPPY IF I FOUND YOU! THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO TALK THAT WAY!
YOU'RE UNEXPECTEDLY ROMANTIC. THAT WAS A PRODUCTION FOR THE SAKE OF SETTING UP THE SITUATION
OR DID YOU ESTIMATE THAT HOSTS HAVE MONEY AND COME FOR SOME POCKET CHANGE OR SOMETHING? IF ANYTHING, THAT KIND OF THING WOULD BE EASY TO UNDERSTAND
TOO BAD. EVEN WITHOUT LOSING MONEY...
I CAN LEND AS MANY PARTNERS AS I LIKE. JUST LIKE I DID YOU.

...AREN'T YOU GETTING CARRIED AWAY...!?
WHO EXACTLY DID YOU LAND!? I WAS JUST FEELING SYMPATHY FOR A PITIFUL HOMO!!
I'M GETTING PISSED OFF THIS IS WHY YOUNGER MEN ARE

IT'S A PAIN AFTER ALL
EVEN WITHOUT ME ASKING HIM TO, HE COMES DYING IT ON AS THICK AS HE CAN
AND THEN LOSES HIS TEMPER WHEN I REJECT HIM
KO

SEEING THOSE EYES LOOKING AT ME FULL OF EXPECTATION
GAVE ME A FEELING OF AVERSION
I COULD HAVE AVOIDED THAT BETTER
IT WAS THE WORST I'VE EVER DONE BEFORE
HIS FACE IS SHINING
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY I CALLED OUT TO HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE

MAYBE I JUST WANTED MESS AROUND AND CAUSE TROUBLE
I WONDER IF RAIBERN SENT MEN?
TO ALL THE MEN WHO'VE FELL AT MY FEET
DAIQUIRI

HAA...
IF I WERE TO TAKE ON THIS NUMBER ALL AT ONCE SURELY I'D BE THE ONE WHO ENDS UP HARASSED—

BUZZZ
BUZZZ
Mr. TWINKLE-SAN
BUZZ
BUZZ
IWAKI-SAN
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT...
YES?
Takaaki? It's me.

HUH?
Stop it already.
STOP WHAT, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WHAT ? WHAT EXACTLY IS HE SAYING?
...stop this kind of behavior you do to torment yourself.

NO WAY DID HE GET WORD OF MY OUTINGS?
JEEZ WHAT ARE YOU SAYING IWAKI-SAN? I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF HOBBY
EXCUSE ME I'M WITH A GUEST RIGHT NOW SO I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER
WEE OOO WEE OOO
WEE OOO WEE OOO
WEE OOO WEE OOO
WEE OOO WEE OOO
WEE OOO WEE OOO
WEE OOO WEE OOO
WEE OOO WEE OOO
HUH!?

WEE
BEEP

GRAB
IWAKI-SAN, WHY...
COME.
IWAKI-SAN!

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT, IWAKI-SAN!
YOU WANT TO ASK WHAT MY DRINKING IN NICHOUME AFTER WORK IS ABOUT, RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THIS KIND OF PLACE, I'M JUST ENJOYING MYSELF RECREATIONALLY. IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO CRITICIZE ME ABOUT IWAKI-SAN
DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING?

IS HE TALKING ABOUT MY BREAKING UP WITH SHINKAWA ?
"WHY--"
ABOUT WHAT...?
WHY YOU HAVE BEEN DOING THESE KIND OF THING'S AND THAT TODAY ISN'T THE FIRST TIME EITHER
COULD HE HAVE HEARD ABOUT IT FROM SHINKAWA?
YEAH, WE BROKE UP SHINKAWA AND I DID, OKAY!?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DESPERATE OR ANYTHING
I'M JUST BACK TO BEING FREE SO I'VE BEEN ENJOYING MYSELF WITHOUT BEING HELD BACK BY ANYONE THAT'S FAIRLY NORMAL ISN'T IT?

"BROKEN HEART?" THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY THAT KIND OF
WHAT PART OF YOU ISN'T DESPERATE...? THIS IS A CASE OF BANISHING THE DEPRESSION OF A BROKEN HEART USING MEN YOU HAVE NO FEELINGS FOR.
BE HONEST, TAKAAKI.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU SO HEAD-OVER-HEELS TO THE POINT WHERE FRANKLY I'M JEALOUS
YOU'VE LOST A LOVE THAT DEEP NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK OF IT. OF COURSE YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN. WHY ARE YOU DENYING THE YOU WHO LOVED? IT ISN'T ANYTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT

THAT'S CHEAP TOO, ISN'T IT ? TO GO CRYING TO SOMEONE I WAS GOING OUT WITH BEFORE
IF YOU'VE BROKEN UP, YOU'VE BROKEN UP. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME? IF IT'S GOTTEN TO THE POINT YOU ENGAGE IN SUCH CHEAP BEHAVIOR.
IT'S CHEAP. BESIDES YOU TOLD ME NOT TO TALK ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP IWAKI-SAN
THAT WAS BEFORE YOU GUYS HAD BROKEN UP
BESIDES, SPEAKING OF HAVING GONE OUT BEFORE IT ISN'T LIKE THAT WAS A BREAKUP DUE TO DISLIKE IT WAS JUST THAT I HAD BEEN DUMPED

YOU KNOW I STILL CAN'T THROW AWAY THOSE FEELINGS DON'T YOU?
LET'S STOP IWAKI-SAN... THIS KIND OF TALK IS...
I KNOW I'M BEHAVING IN A WAY THAT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE WOUND OF A BROKEN HEART BUT I WON'T STOP

PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT. YOU THINK I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING?
THEN WHY...!?
ARE YOU WORRYING ABOUT THAT? IF THAT'S THE CASE, I DON'T MIND CANCELLING
YOU'VE ALSO STOPPED CHOOSING YOUR WORDS. HUH—?
YOU'RE SAYING HAVING ME IN THAT ROLE WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT?
IT'S NO GOOD IF IT'S YOU, IWAKI-SAN

THAT'S NOT IT. YOU AREN'T SOMEONE TO ME. IWAKI-SAN. YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PERSON THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO SUBSTITUTE FOR.
IF I WERE TO BRING A MATTER LIKE LOVE IN TO THAT IMPORTANT PERSON AND END UP LOSING HIM, THEN WHAT...?
TAKAAKI

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO BE THAT WORRIED ABOUT.
IT'S SIMPLY THAT I WENT BACK TO THE ME FROM BEFORE. SAYING THERE ARE CERTAIN PEOPLE YOU JUST DON'T USE.
...ONLY, I'M LONELY BEING BY MYSELF SO BEING WITH SOMEONE... TH..IT'S ALL. IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER WHO IT IS.
THINKING OF SOMEONE BEING THOUGHT OF... I GOT USED TO THAT KIND OF THING BUT I GUESS I PUT IN A POINTLESS AMOUNT OF EFFORT WITH THINGS I COULDN'T GET USED TO ALL I DID WAS CRY
THANKS TO THAT. SINCE WE'VE BROKEN UP I'VE STABILIZED AND I GUESS I'M GETTING BACK TO THE DISPOSITION THAT I'M HUMAN AFTER ALL

WHAT...?
SO IT'S AN ACT OF SELF-TORTURE LIKE I THOUGHT...
IF YOU WERE REALLY ENJOYING YOURSELF THAT WOULD BE THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO INTRUDE
BUT SEEING YOUR APPEARANCE EARLIER AND HEARING YOUR SPEECH NOW, I CAN'T SEE IT THAT WAY

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE GIVING OFF A DESPERATE SIGN THAT YOU'VE LOST SOMEONE IMPORTANT AND CAN'T ENDURE THE PAIN
BECAUSE YOU'RE WORLDLY ONLY IN ACTIONS, YOU'RE A GUY WHO'S SINGLE-MINDED WHEN IT COMES TO BEING MISUNDERSTOOD
YOU SAY YOU'VE STABILIZED BECAUSE YOU'VE STOPPED CRYING BUT WHEN YOU SQUEEZE THE FEELINGS DEEP INSIDE YOU OUT OF YOUR MOUTH TEARS FLOW NATURALLY
WHEN YOU CRY TO THAT EXTENT IF YOUR BODY SAYS ANYONE IS FINE EVEN THOUGH YOUR HEART WANTS TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY A SINGLE PERSON, THAT'S NOTHING BUT SELF TORTURE

SINCE I CAN'T KEEP WATCHING YOU BE SO MISERABLE I DON'T MIND IF I'M SEEN AS OBSTINATE
GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE I WON'T SAY ANYTHING AS FAR AS SHINKAWA GOES. BUT I'M ALSO A PERSON YOU DON'T WANT TO LOSE, AREN'T I?
... I WANT TO DEPEND ON HIM ...
BUT IF I STILL CAN'T RESPOND TO HIS FEELINGS I'LL END UP HURTING HIM.
THAT'S THE ONE THING I CAN'T DO ...!

THANKS FOR ALL THE TROUBLE YOU TOOK WITH ME...
THOUGH I WANT RELIEF... AND IT'D BE FINE TO JUST CHOSE A PERSON TO FALL IN LOVE WITH FOR SUCH A CHEAP REASON.
YEAH, HANG IN THERE. DON'T FORGET MY WORDS ABOUT PEOPLE'S VIEWPOINTS.
IT WAS A FAVOR I'D ASKED FOR SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL
SORRY FOR TROUBLING EVEN IWAKI SAN TO PUT IN AN APPEARANCE TO PAY HIS RESPECTS
IS WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY BUT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE YOUR FACE SO I USED IT AS AN EXCUSE.
HAHAHA

PEOPLE'S VIEWPOINTS
HUH? I SAID THAT RATHER EGOTISTICALLY MYSELF...
...DE...
COME ON, LET'S GO KAZUOMI DON'T KEEP CLINGING TO THIS PLACE FOREVER.
SEE YOU, TAKAAKI
...HUH?

...IF I SPOKE WITH SAINKAWA...
TAKAAKI!!!
...AND SAW FROM HIS VIEWPOINT EVEN JUST ONCE
BAR

Nakama

UV v2 ch8

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TAKAAKI!!

#9

TAKAAKI!
SHIT!
SCHNAPPS
THAT GUY...!!

TAKAAKI!!
HAA
HAA
ROLL
Shit! Stabbed? Normally...
DON'T SPEAK!! I'M CALLING AN AMBULANCE RIGHT NOW!!

WHAT ARE YOU... SAYING, TOMOYUKI-SAN...?
RATHER THAN WAITING FOR AN AMBULANCE, IT'D BE FASTER TO TAKE HIM OURSELVES...! ISN'T THERE A HOSPITAL RIGHT OVER THERE?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
DON'T MOVE HIM!! WHAT'LL YOU DO IF YOU INJURE HIS INTERNAL ORGANS UNNECESSARILY!? ARE YOU REALLY THE SON OF A DOCTOR?

WE NEED AN AN AMBULANCE!! A MAN IS WOUNDED! HIS ABDOMEN HAS BEEN STABBED WITH A SHARP OBJECT!!
THE LOCATION IS KABUKICHOU NICHOUME, HANAMICHI-DOORI, ON THE ROAD IN THE VICINITY OF FUURIN KAIKAN!!
LOVE LOVE
HOME

SCHNAPPS
HISS
HISS
WEE
EEM

HISS
Iwak-
sa
DON'T SPEAK!!
HISS
Q.!
I... can cry in front of you Iwak-san...
...on the other hand, I've never cried in front of Shinkawa... I resisted showing him my weak side to the end

But that... isn't particularly limited to Shinkawa... It's... proof that I'm dependent on you... Iwaki-san...
But... I feel that if... I allow myself... that dependency... I'll become useless as a man...

HISS
So...
—I UNDER-STAND

I UNDERSTAND, SO...
PLEASE DON'T SPEAK NOW....
SLAM
SLAM
STEP
STEP
STEP
IWAKI-SAN!

I BOUGHT THE NECESSARY ITEMS FOR HOSPITALIZATION ON MY WAY
SO WHERE'S TAKAAKI-SAN!?
HE'S STILL IN SURGERY

PLEASE STAY BY HIS SIDE FOR ME. I'M GOING TO THE POLICE NOW TO ASSIST WITH CREATING A MONTAGE
HUH!? YOU SAW THE GUY WHO STABBED HIM!? BUT YOU CAN DO THAT AFTER THE SURGERY IS OVER. AT LEAST FOR NOW...
TAKAAKI IS FINE. MORE THAN THAT, I'M DOING WHAT I CAN NOW. WHEN THE MONTAGE IS FINISHED I'LL LEND A HAND WITH THE HOSTS AT YOUR PLACE
HUH!?

UNDERSTOOD.
IF IT'S JUST A HOST FROM KABUKICHOU GETTING STABBED THE POLICE WON'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY
I FEEL THAT IF I ALLOW MYSELF THAT DEPENDENCY, I'LL BECOME USELESS AS A MAN...!
I'LL DEFINITELY LOCATE HIM AND SETTLE THINGS EVEN IF I HAVE TO USE ALL THE PIECES I CAN MOVE
ward
ncy Roo
"...SO..."

"IT'S NO GOOD IF IT'S YOU, IWAKI-SAN..."

HEY...
SHINKAWA! ARE YOU HERE?
YEAH.

AH, THE DOM...ERI YOU MENTIONED, HUH?
IT'S FINE. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I DO ON MY TIME OFF. BESIDES, IWAKI-SAN ISN'T THAT NARROW-MINDED.
OH, LUCKY, YOU'RE ALONE.
IWAKI-SAN IS COMING BY LATER.
IS THAT OKAY? WON'T YOU GET CAUGHT HANGING ABOUT A RIVAL STORE?
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
HE'S THE PERSON WHO SAID HE'LL GIVE HIS OWN RELATIVE TO CELEBRATE THE OPENING ONCE PROPERLY TRAINED

ISN'T THAT YOU? WHO WOULD THINK SUCH A THING? HONESTLY YOU'RE LIKE A BRAT WHO HAS JUST LEARNED SOMETHING NEW. DON'T OBJECT FOR THE SAKE OF OBJECTING
YOU'LL PUT ON A JACKET WHEN IWAKI-SAN COMES. WON'T YOU? IF YOU DISPLAY SUCH EROTIC SHOULDERS, HE'LL WIND UP THINKING YOU'RE ENTICING HIM
I CAN'T HELP IT— SINCE SOMEONE WON'T LET ME GET USED TO IT AT ALL
AND JUST WHO CREATED THE SITUATION WHERE I CAN'T EASILY SAY IT'S OKAY? PUTTING ME THROUGH SUCH SUFFERING
IT'D BE FASTER FOR ME TO DO THE LOVEMAKING RATHER THAN WAIT FOR YOU TO LEARN, BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S BEEN DECIDED THAT YOU'RE THE ONE TO DO THE LOVEMAKING
SHUDDUP! IT WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE MAKING LOVE TO A MAN, SO I'M SAYING YOU SHOULD LET ME PRACTICE!

I'M FINE WITH THAT
MAKE LOVE TO ME I'M UP
TO IT ANY TIME YOU WANT
YOUR LOVEMAKING
TEACH MY BODY
LOVE TO ME OF
COURSE I WILL TAKE
THAT AS A YES
WITH A YES
OR WHATEVER,
YOU COMPLETELY HAVE
THAT INTENTION.

I DO! BUT I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT YOU YET
AREN'T YOU SERIOUS. LOOKING AT THINGS FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE, ISN'T IT FINE JUST TO THINK OF US AS GOING OUT?
WHAT I CAN SAY TO YOU RIGHT NOW IS... I RELAX WHEN I'M WITH YOU. I'M AT EASE BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TO PUSH MYSELF.
RIP
IF THIS WAS A CASE OF A MAN AND A WOMAN, WOULDN'T THAT BE ONE OF THE BASES ON DECIDING A MARRIAGE? IS THAT NO GOOD?
I GET IT.

I'M GOING HOME AFTER ALL. KEEP MY HANGING OUT HERE IS SECRET FROM IWAKI-SAN, KAY?
I CAN'T REALLY SAY IT'S NO GOOD TO BE CALLED SERIOUS. BUT
GOT IT.
NO MATTER HOW FURIOUS I FACED SHINKAWA'S BOSS...
MY HEART IS PASSIVE IN FRONT OF HIM.

AND YET, I WANT TO BE TOLD, "I LOVE YOU."
!?
!!!
WITH ONE'S MOUTH FEELINGS CAN BE SAID IN MANY WAYS...
EVEN WITHOUT WORDS
CERTAINLY, NO MATTER HOW MUCH A PERSON IS LOVED, HE HAS NO PERCEPTION OUTSIDE HIS OWN

UM... IS THIS THE STORE?
HUH...?
You really look like him.
ARE YOU PERHAPS IWAKI-SAN'S...
HUH? AH YEAH
SHINKAWA'S INSIDE GO ON IN
THANKS.

I'M NICE... CROSS ME BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH SANADA
WHERE'S IWAKI-SAN? WEREN'T YOU COMING TOGETHER?
I'LL BE REAL. I'M NO LIMIT TO THE AVARICE OF LOVE.

I WANTED TO WAIT AND COME WHEN HE DID. BUT TOMOYUKI-SAN SAID I HAD TO COME TODAY, NO MATTER WHAT
...THERE WAS A BIT OF TROUBLE...
SINCE HE CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY, HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU THAT AND THAT HE'LL CONTACT YOU LATER TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS.
WHAT A STUPID THING TO HAVE DONE EVEN IF I SAY SO MYSELF.
EXHALE
TO THINK I ARGUED WITH TAKAAKI OVER THIS KIND OF SHIT! WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT A GUARDIAN
WELL THAT'S FINE. WHAT'S YOUR GENJI NAME?*
*A "Genji name" is a professional name used in the sex industry

THE NAME YOU USE WHEN YOU APPEAR IN THE STORE! DID YOU USE YOUR REAL NAME AT SCHNAPPS?
ANNOYED
GENJI NAME?
YES... THE PEOPLE IN THE STORE CALLED ME BY MY REAL NAME
I... WAS TOLD NOT TO SHOW MY FACE IN FRONT OF THE CUSTOMERS. SO
I MEANT THE CUSTOMERS!!
PISSED
THINGS LIKE CLEANING THE STORE... AND ODD JOBS FOR MY SENIORS. I WAS TOLD YOU WOULD TEACH ME HOW TO WORK AS A HOST.
HUH...? THEN WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR ALMOST TWO MONTHS...?

I WAS TOLD BY THE MANAGER THAT THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH THIS SCAR OTHER THAN THE EYES IT'S SEEN WITH AS A HOST
CLEANING... ODD JOBS...? TAKAKI-SAN KEPT YOU ON EVEN THOUGH HE WASN'T TELLING YOU THAT KIND OF THING...?
...THEN WHY WASN'T I DISMISSED...?
DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND ?
I WAS TOLD I COULD BE TAUGHT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS SCAR OF MINE!
I DON'T GET ITS CONNECTION TO WHY I WASN'T ALLOWED TO DO ANYTHING BESIDES CLEAN
SO I CAME HERE!
IT'S JUST HE SAID IF HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE ME CONSCIOUS THAT THERE'S A PROBLEM WITH ME, HIS WORK WAS COMPLETE

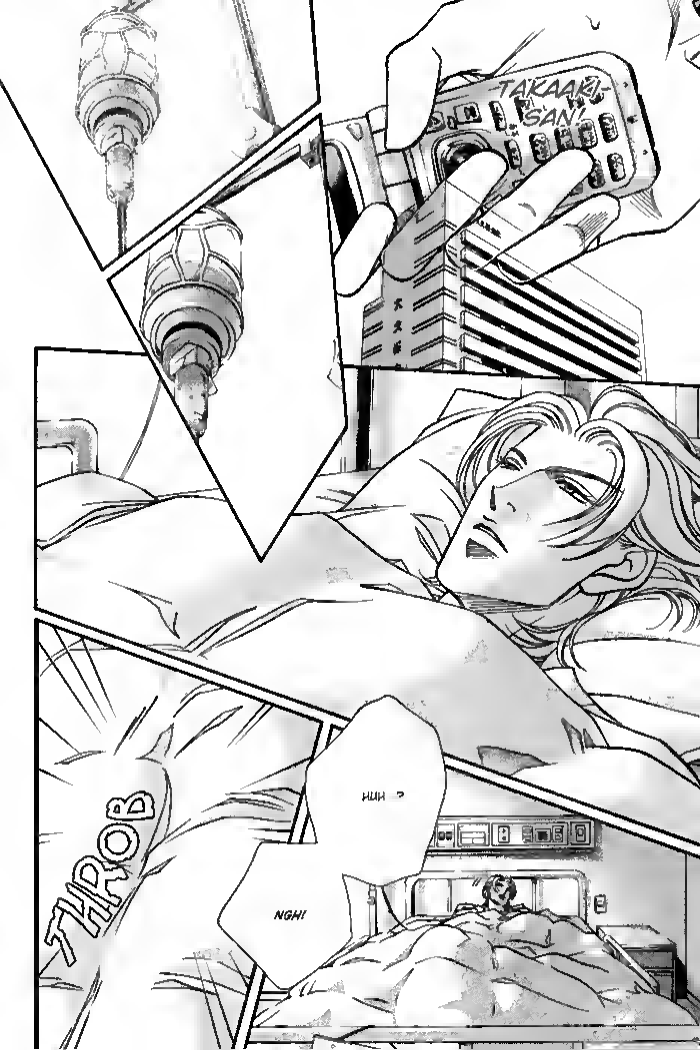
"TEACHING YOU THAT IS SHINKAWA'S JOB."
HE SAID TEACHING THAT WASN'T HIS JOB AND WOULDN'T TELL ME NO MATTER HOW MUCH I ASKED
HE SAID SO LONG AS I DON'T GIVE UP HALFWAY THROUGH YOU WOULD TEACH ME COMPLETELY
"IT'S OKAY."
"IF IT'S SHINKAWA HE'LL TEACH YOU THAT COMPLETELY."
SO I CAME HERE, BELIEVING THE WORDS OF THE MANAGER!!

THIS GUY'S VERY EXISTENCE IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE FROM TAKAAKI...
"TRY AND SEE IF YOU CAN TALK ON THE SAME LEVEL AS ME."
NO, TAKAAKI-SAN ISN'T A PERSON WHO WOULD USE PEOPLE AS A TOOL TO TEST SOMEONE
I'M PROBABLY BEING INFLUENCED BY THIS GUY, SINCE I HATE THAT THE SITUATION HAS COME TO THIS.
...THEN HE REALLY THINKS I'LL BE ABLE TO RESPOND...!?

THUD
IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE MANAGER WAS SAYING, PLEASE SAY SO NOW I WANT TO HURRY UP AND GO TO THE HOSPITAL...
TO WHERE THE MANAGER IS
THE MANAGER... EARLIER, HE WAS STABBED IN FRONT OF SCHNAPPS... HE WAS TAKEN AWAY BY AMBULANCE...
BUT I KNOW TAKAAKI-SAN THIS GUY IS COMING TO MEIJIN A STATE OF ADORATION FOR HIM.
I'M HAVING MY HURDLE AS A MANAGER RAISED WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT!!

I HAVEN'T HEARD TOMOYUKI-SAN SAID I SHOULD JUST COME HERE
YES?
IWAKI-SAN!! WHAT'S TAKAAKI-SAN'S CONDITION!!? WHERE IS THE HOSPITAL?
WHERE IS THE HOSPITAL!?

That has nothing to do with you. There's no reason I should tell you
LIKE HELL IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!
Don't toss Takaaki about any more
BEEP


TAKAAKI-SAN!
NGH!
HUH ?
TYROB

ISHII...
THAT'S RIGHT I WAS STABBED
IW,UKI-SA...

SHINKAWA...?

Nakama

UV v2 ch9

credits:

Scanner: redwhing
Transer: zft
Editor: aripie
Qcer: abscondite

SHINKAWA ...?
#10

I THOUGHT
I DIDN'T HAVE
THE RIGHT ANYMORE
TO SHOW MY FACE AT
THIS POINT. BUT I HEARD
YOU WERE STABBED AND
I COULDN'T NOT BE HERE

YOU'RE WRO-
THROB
PLOP
BUT... I REALLY SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THINK I COULD LOOK LIKE IWAKI-SAN. YOU MUST BE GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY TO POUND THE NAIL IN
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE ALONE FOREVER. BUT... WITNESSING IT WITH MY OWN EYES IT REALLY IS COMPLICATED...

I'M SORRY, TAKAAKI-SAN. I HADN'T INTENDED TO SAY THESE KIND OF THINGS...!
AH! TAKAAKI-SAN. THANK GOODNESS! YOU'VE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS
HM...?
WOAH, SHINKAWA!? WHEN DID YOU GET HERE!?
FIRST THING THIS MORNING I WORRIED ALL NIGHT. BUT IN THE END I NEEDED TO KNOW IF HE WAS SAFE OR NOT—

CREAK
THEN I'LL GO CALL THE DOCTOR
AND... I KNOW IT'S LATE IN THE GAME BUT SINCE I THOUGHT I SHOULD FACE HIM PROPERLY AND TALK...
AH ISH!!
I KNOW! I'LL TAKE MY TIME SEEING TO IT
SMILE
SHUT
AH...

I NAMED IT "BIJOU."
BIJOU? YOU'VE GIVEN IT A RATHER GENTLE NAME. DID YOU GET THE IMAGE FROM "KAORI-SAN'S STORE"?
IT WASN'T REALLY THAT I WANTED YOU TO HEAR MY FEELINGS OR ANYTHING...
BUT SINCE I HADN'T INFORMED YOU YET... I DECIDED ON THE NAME OF THE STORE AND I WANT YOU TO HEAR IT
IT ISN'T THAT IT HAS NO CONNECTION TO MOM, BUT... EITHER WAY IT'S RELATED TO THE FIRST THING I LEARNED FROM YOU
Midnight Pets ~K's and Shinkawa's Emotion~ She runs a jewelry shop
17/ A Key for "Bijou" is "Jewel"

"IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU HAVE NO REGRETS."
I LEARNED MANY THINGS FROM YOU BUT MY START OF BECOMING A HOST WAS BECAUSE OF THOSE WORDS
NO MATTER HOW I TRY TO CHANGE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU, YOU ARE MY STARTING POINT. I GAVE IT THAT NAME SO THAT I COULD MAKE A SHOP THAT ISN'T EMBARRASSING TO YOU.
YOU CAN BE PROUD BECAUSE IT WILL REMAIN WITH ME.
AS A LOVER, I'VE PROBABLY CAUSED YOU DISAPPOINTMENT BUT... I PROMISE YOU I DEFINITELY WON'T RUN AWAY FROM MY POSITION AS A STUDENT.

WELL, I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT, NO MATTER WHAT...
...MAKE THINGS GO WELL WITH IWAKI-SAN WITH ME... IT'S A SHAME BUT I WASN'T SUFFICIENT FOR THAT ROLE...

YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM IWAKI-SAN YOU LOSE YOUR COOL RIGHT AWAY. YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY
DON'T LISTEN? WHO DOESN'T...!?
THAT'S RIGHT. OF COURSE IWAKI-SAN IS BETTER
IWAKI-SAN WOULD DEFINITELY MAKE ME HAPPY

NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK OF IT IWAKI-SAN IS BETTER
AND YET...

WHY IS IT...
...THAT THIS IS THE GUY I WANT...?

"I CAN CRY IN FRONT OF YOU, TAKI-SAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE NEVER CRIED IN FRONT OF SHINKAI."
THINGS LIKE BEING ABLE TO CRY BECAUSE IT'S IN FRONT OF SOMEONE
"AS FAR AS BEING ABLE TO USE WORDS LIKE LOVE "
"IT WASN'T A PROBLEM OF COMPREHENSION OR ANYTHING."
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND SUCH WORDS
DON'T MAKE SUCH A CUTE FACE AND CRY, WHILE SAYING WORDS THAT'LL PISS ME OFF ..

THIS FEELING IS "LOVE." THAT'S WHAT THIS IS...
AND YET I...

SLIDE
TURN
KNOCK
KNOCK
MANAGER..?
HUH..?

THEN, I'LL BE GOING
SHUT

I LET GO...?
WHY DID I...
THAT'S HOW MUCH I THOUGHT OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT PERSON
I... LOVE HIM AFTER ALL...

I'M SORRY IF YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION I'LL
NO IT'S OKAY
TO THINK A PERSON COULD BE STABBED RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SHOCKED I'M SORRY

WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING, MANAGER...?!! YOU'RE THE VICTIM...!
TEARY
YOUR MANAGER ISN'T ME ANYMORE IS IT? JUST CALL ME TAKAAKI.
LAUGH

SO YOU CAME AFTER ALL
DID YOU TEST ME TO SEE WHETHER I'VE COMPLETELY CUT TIES WITH TAKAAKI-SAN...? YESTERDAY, FORCING YOUR NEPHEW TO COME WAS ALSO IN ORDER TO LET ME KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT, RIGHT?
THIS INDUSTRY IS SMALL YOU WOULD HAVE CAUGHT WORD OF IT SOONER OR LATER. SO I LET YOU KNOW WITH TIMING I COULD GRASP

SO YOU'RE SAYING IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT ...? IF THE RESULT IS STILL THAT I COME SEE HIM, ISN'T IT THE SAME THING?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO APPEAR BEFORE TAKAAKI WITHOUT THINKING. CARRIED BY THE MOMENTUM OF HEARING ABOUT THE INCIDENT
IT ISN'T. YOU'LL AT LEAST CONSIDER WHAT TAKAAKI WILL THINK WHEN HE SEES YOUR FACE THIS WAY YOU WON'T COME HERE WITH HALF-HEARTED FEELINGS
I'VE NEVER DONE A SINGLE THING HALF-HEARTEDLY WITH THAT PERSON!!
GLAMOR

I CONSIDERED IT
HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR HABIT OF SHOUTING OUT HEEDLESS OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS. HUH?
COME. IT'S BOTHERSOME HERE
THE MEANING OF WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT "TOSSING ABOUT" TAKAAKI-SAN . WHY YOU WOULD BE SAYING THAT—
IF IT'S INCONVENIENT FOR ME, WHO HAD BEEN HIS LOVER, TO SHOW MY FACE, YOU GUYS MUST BE IN A RELATIONSHIP NOW, RIGHT .!?

NO WAY. HE THINKS TAKAAKI AND I HAVE GOTTEN BACK TOGETHER...?
OH? TAKAAKI DOESN'T KNOW IT?
AND? WHEN YOU'D FIGURED THAT OUT, WHY DID YOU COME? IS IT BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE LINGERING ATTACHMENT?
LINGERING ATTACHMENT
WELL?

NH ..
...OF COURSE I DO!
HOW STUPID. THEN WHY DID YOU BREAK UP?
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE ASKED SUCH A THING BY YOU?
HOW ABOUT POSSESSING SOME SENSE OF DANGER!

BECAUSE I HAVE SELF-CONFIDENCE BUT IT'S UNPLEASANT TO HAVE A JOKE THROWN IN WITH SUPERFICIAL FEELINGS
TRY UNDERSTANDING EVERYTHING ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN YOU AND TAKAAKI THE CASE OF KAZUOMI HOW MUCH OF YOUR BURDEN DID TAKAAKI TAKE ON ?
WHIRR
ONCE YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD IF YOU CAN STILL SAY YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TRAIN KAZUOMI
IF YOU WITHDRAW WHAT WILL BE THE BASIS ON WHICH YOU SAID "LEAVE IT TO ME" TO US ? IF THAT HAPPENS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW YOUR FACE EVER AGAIN
Ohkubo Hospital

SHINKAWA SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW...?
MEANING YOU ASKED HIM ABOUT WHAT I SAID AT FACE VALUE
HOW STUPID THERE'S NO WAY EVEN SHINKAWA WOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER SUDDENLY BEING TOLD IT LIKE THAT
BUT TAKAAKI-SAN YOU SAID SHINKAWA-SAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO TEACH IT TO ME
KAZUOMI... SOCIETY ISN'T LIKE SCHOOL

YOU COULD SAY SCHOOL IS A PLACE WHERE YOU PAY MONEY AND RECEIVE THE SERVICE OF EDUCATION
SO TEACHERS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO EXPLAIN THINGS CONCERNING THE STUDENTS' WORRIES AND DOUBTS UNTIL THEY UNDERSTAND
SO NOW THAT YOU'VE ENTERED SOCIETY YOU RE SIMPLY COUNTING ON PEOPLE TO PREPARE THE ANSWERS FOR YOU
...KAZUOMI WAS ALSO STABBED ONCE WHEN HE WAS SMALL.

HE HAS A BIG SCAR ON HIS RIGHT EYEBROW, RIGHT? HE WAS TEMPORARILY BLINDED, AND EVEN NOW HIS VISION IS EXTREMELY LOW IN HIS RIGHT EYE.
OUR FAMILY RUNS A HOSPITAL, BUT... WHEN A CERTAIN CHILD WAS TAKEN IN FROM AN ACCIDENT, THEY WERE UNABLE TO SAVE HIM AND HE ENDED UP DYING.
THAT CHILD'S PARENT AIMED AT KAZUOMI TO SHOW OUR FAMILY WHAT IT FELT LIKE... PROBABLY OUT OF FEELINGS OF GUILT.
HIS PARENTS WERE ALSO TOO OVERPROTECTIVE AND HE PROBABLY GAINED A REPUTATION DUE TO THAT SHOWY SCAR. HE ENDED UP BEHAVING BADLY BECAUSE IT WAS A SITUATION WHERE THEY WOULD CLEAN UP AFTER KAZUOMI WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING
AND KAZUOMI IS KAZUOMI, HE HAS A STRONG SENSE OF BEING VICTIMIZED BY ANYTHING, PROBABLY DUE TO SUFFERING A HANDICAP FOR AN IRRATIONAL REASON
IT SEEMS TAKAAKI STARTED WITH MAKING HIM INDEPENDENT FROM THAT SCAR, BUT IT WAS CERTAINLY HITTING THE MARK

THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES TAKAAKI-SAN
HE SHOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THEM. I HAVEN'T MENTIONED ANYTHING
HE MUST HAVE PERCEIVED KAZUOMI'S DISPOSITION WHEN THEY FIRST MET. BECAUSE THAT KIND OF THING IS HIS SPECIALTY
...YOU SEEK A SENSE OF VALUES FROM PEOPLE TOO MUCH, IWAKI-SAN, FOR ONE. YOU HAVE A TENDENCY TO SWALLOW DOWN WHAT THE PEOPLE WHO WORRY ABOUT YOU SAY...

WITHOUT TROUBLES THERE ARE NO ANSWERS... IF YOU CAN REALIZE THERE IS A PROBLEM IN YOURSELF FIRST, THEN YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME IT...
LOOK AT... SHINKAWA'S WORK. THAT'S... WHAT I MEANT... WHEN I... SAID TO LEARN SELF-CONFIDENCE... AND SHINKAWA... WILL... TEACH
YOU

KNOCK
CLATTER
SORRY I NEED TO REST A BIT...
OH OKAY! I'LL HEAD HOME THEN.
AH, ISHII-SAN...
HUH? KAZUOMI? WHERE'S SHINKAWA?
WHISPER
HE PASSED ME ON MY WAY IN. TAKAAKI HAS JUST GONE TO SLEEP.
WHAT A MESS
HUH? NO WAY. I JUST CALLED THE DOCTOR, AND SOMEONE FROM THE POLICE IS COMING TOO... WHAT A WASTE.
HUSHED
SHUT

*(sign) (T.Kyo Metropolitan Red Cross Medical Treatment Corporation(Ohku)he Hospital

Nakama

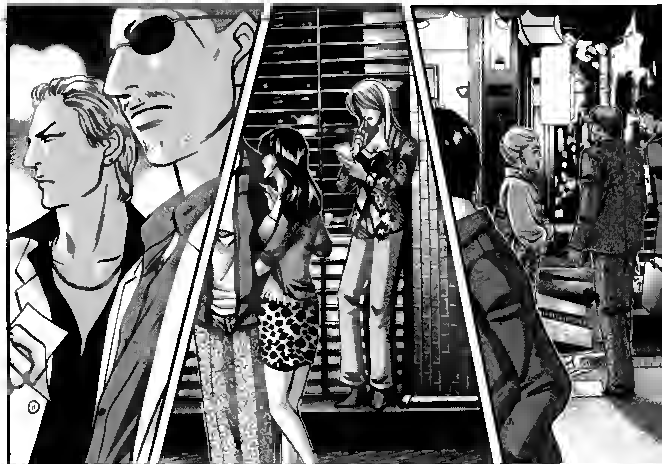
UV v2 ch10

credits:

Scanner: redwhing
Transer: zft
Editor: aripie
Qcer: mee-p

#11

歌舞伎町一番街
175~178cm
Age: Early 20s
Equally Dangerous
2023



HOW INCREDIBLE THERE'S EVEN AWARD MONEY, RIGHT? THE NEWS HAVE BEEN CIRCLING AROUND SO MUCH THAT THE POSTER HAS EVEN REACHED OUR NAIL SALON WHICH DOESN'T NORMALLY ATTRACT MEN
THEY'RE EVEN TALKING ABOUT IT AT YOUR PLACE, YUKARI? INVOKE IWAKI-SAN'S WRATH AND THERE'S NO SAFE PLACE FOR YOU IN TOKYO. HUH?
BUT THE PERSON WHO WAS STABBED WASN'T SOMEONE FROM IWAKI-SAN'S STORE, WAS HE? ISN'T THAT INCREDIBLE THAT THEY'RE PASSING OUT MONEY?

CREAK
IWAKI-SAN ISN'T SOMEONE WHO CAN KEEP SILENT WHEN AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS IS STABBED BEFORE HIS EYES
THOUGH I THINK EVEN I WOULD DO THAT MUCH IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU YUKARI
OH, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU LATELY, TOSHIYA!
♡

THEY'VE ALL BECOME DESPERATE TO FIND THE CULPRIT AS IF IT WERE SOME KIND OF FESTIVAL
THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW TAKAKO, THOSE WHO DON'T
SHIBUYA
SHIMOCHIKO
IN THE LOVE HOTEL SHE'D TAKEN TAKAKO WAS STABBED. THE GUY HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE
WHO'S THE CRIMINAL? WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKAKO?
FRANKLY I THINK IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME
THE ONLY UNJUST THING IS

CLUB
BIJOU
SHINKAWA...
HE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE INCIDENT, BUT HE'S BEING SO QUIET...
IS IT THAT THE OPENING OF THE STORE IS CLOSE AT HAND AND THERE'S NO ROOM FOR IT, OR IS IT THAT HE'S ADOPTED THE "TITLIDE THAT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM ANYMORE...
"AH "KENZAKI?... SORRY YOU'VE CALLED SEVERAL TIMES, HUH? I WAS AT THE HOSPITAL, SO I HAD THE POWER OFF."
incoming call
"THE HOSPITAL? SO IT WAS TRUE? THAT TAKAKI GETTING STABBED WAS TRUE?"

"I SEE. THAT'S GOOD THEN. THERE'S BEEN RUMORS THAT IT WAS PRETTY BAD... I WONDER IF SHINKAWA KNOWS..."
"YEAH. FOR THE TIME BEING, IT DIDN'T END UP BECOMING SERIOUS BUT IT SEEMS HE'LL BE HOSPITALIZED FOR TWO WEEKS."
"IS HE ALL RIGHT?"
HUH...
"YEAH. SHINKAWA KNOWS. HE STOPPED BY THE HOSPITAL FIRST THING NEXT MORNING."
"SORRY KENZAKI I HAVE SOMEWHERE ELSE I HAVE TO BE SO-"
"AH...YEAH. THANK YOU..."

IT'S NATURAL TO PAY SYMPATHY VISIT TO AN ACQUAINTANCE WHO HAS BEEN STABBED
THE TWO OF THEM MET AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT I WONDER WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT ?
IT'D BE GREAT IF THINGS HAPPENED SO EASILY BUT...
BIJOU
BIJOU
A RAID I CAN'T RESIST
I'M WAITING FOR SHINKAWA TO BREAK THE ICE!!
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT I GET UPSET AND AM UNABLE TO GO SEE HIM...

NO, MORE ELEGANTLY.
YOUR STANDING HERE DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH WHETHER YOU'RE A VETERAN OR A NOVICE MORE THAN FOCUSING ON YOUR PLACE AT THE SHOP, YOU GUYS SATISFY THE CUSTOMERS TOO AND ARE PROS AS A MATTER OF COURSE
GOT THAT? IT ISN'T THE STORE WHO HANDS OUT YOUR GUARANTEE THE CUSTOMERS ARE THE ONES WHO HAND IT OUT. BE AWARE OF THAT FIRST

WELL, ISN'T HE TURNING INTO THE FACE OF A PRETTY COMPETENT MANAGER?
SORRY FOR BOTHERING YOU RIGHT BEFORE OPENING, WHEN THINGS ARE BUSY, BUT I WAS PASSING BY AND ENDED UP WANTING TO SEE YOUR FACE.
BA-DUMP
THAT'S FINE. I WAS THINKING I'D LIKE TO SEE AND TALK TO YOU ANYHOW

LET'S STOP MEETING ALONE FOR A WHILE.
W-
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN... SO SUDDENLY...

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH TAKAAKI!?
NO. THAT GUY HAS COMPLETELY RETURNED TO NORMAL WITH IWAKI-SAN AT HIS SIDE. IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO INTRUDE.
IN THAT CASE, WHY...? DID I DO SOMETHING!?
I'M THE PROBLEM
I CAN'T TIE UP YOUR FEELINGS BY FOREVER BEING UNABLE TO RESPOND WITH WORDS LIKE "I WANT TO BE WITH YOU."
I'VE SAID I'LL WAIT, HAVEN'T I...?
YOU DON'T NEED IT TO WORRY ABOUT IT IF IT BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH...!

NOW THAT I'VE BECOME AWARE OF THAT, I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO KEEP GIVING YOU HOPE LIKE THIS
I'VE BEEN THINKING ALL ALONG THAT ANYTHING IS FINE AS LONG AS IT TURNS INTO THOSE KIND OF FEELINGS FOR YOU
THAT'S WHY I EVEN HAD SEX WITH YOU.... I WAS THINKING "SOMEDAY" BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE INSIDE ME. I STILL LOVE TAKAAKI-SAN JUST THE SAME AS EVER.

MY TELLING YOU NOT TO MEET UP WITH ME ALONE IS BECAUSE MY FEELINGS WON'T CHANGE FOR A WHILE AFTER ALL
.....
THUD
IF I NEVER CHANGE THEM AT ALL, IT'LL BE HARD TO KEEP GOING OUT AFTER THIS, WON'T IT?
DON'T SAY AFTER THIS... I DON'T WANT THAT KIND OF THING...!

DROP
DROP
FROM THE START...!
CROSSED THE LINE WITH YOU DETERMINED NOT TO GO BACK...!
ARE YOU TRYING TO WIN OVER MY FEELINGS...
BY DOWNPLAYING THEM!?

CAN IT BE CALLED DOWNPLAY ? IT WAS MY INTENT TO SERIOUSLY THINK ABOUT YOU IN MY OWN WAY

YOU CAN SAY ANYTHING WITH YOUR MOUTH
YOU CAN SAY "LET'S GO BACK TO HOW WE WERE BEFORE " BUT—
HOWEVER YOU PHRASE IT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE EALITY THAT YOU WON'T BECOME MINE

YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE BEST...
SO THEN YOU JUST LET HIM KEEP ON MISUNDERSTANDING...?
DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME. I DON'T WANT HIM TO MAKE YOU CRY ANY MORE
BESIDES IF YOU AND SHINKAWA RETURN TO HOW THINGS WERE BEFORE I'LL HAVE TO BE STEADFAST NEXT TIME IT TROUBLES ME TO BE FORCED TO WAVER

I WAS THINKING THAT JUST GETTING INTO IT WITH THE PRIDE OF AN HONEST MAN WAS BEST. BUT WITH HIM I WAS GIVEN AN ANSWER THAT WASN'T BAD.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY A CLUMSY GUY WHO WITHDRAWS UPON KNOWING THE SITUATION COULD GO OUT WITH YOU
"SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? CAN YOU DO IT?"
"I CAN'T BE SO ARROGANT TOWARD KAZUOMI AS TO SAY DEFINITELY 'I CAN'"
"BUT I CAN SAY THAT I'LL DO MY BEST."
"THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT BE JUDGED BY THE CHANGE IN KAZUOMI WHO WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME. OF COURSE IT WON'T SEE TAKAAKI-SAN UNTIL I PRODUCE RESULTS."

UP UNTIL NOW HE ONLY ARGUED BASED ON EMOTION. KNOWING SETBACKS, HE'S BECOME A BIT MORE GROWN UP, HASN'T HE?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, HE'S STILL IN HIS MID-TWENTIES. IF YOU THINK ABOUT HOW THINGS WILL PROGRESS FROM HERE ON, HAVING HIS PRIDE HUMBLED AT THIS POINT IS GOOD MEDICINE
BECAUSE I ALSO MET THIS GUY AROUND THAT TIME AND HAD MY WAY OF THINKING CHANGED COMPLETELY...
EXPERIENCING SETBACKS TO BECOME AN ADULT HUH...?
LAUGH
BUT IT'S ALSO TROUBLING TO BE PUSHED INTO BECOMING TOO STEADFAST
WHY'S THAT?

IT'S SOMETHING I REALIZED WITH RECENT EVENTS THAT IT SEEMS I LIKE THOSE WHO ARE A LITTLE HOPELESS
...IF THAT'S THE REASON I WAS DUMPED I CAN'T HELP FEELING PAIN
You Simpleton.
DO YOU GET IT? AFTER A HOLIDAY THE NEXT DAY IS WORK SEE? IF YOU DRINK THAT MUCH...
SHUDDAP! IF YOU'RE JUST GONNA PREACH GO HOME, DUMBASS!!

SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING, NAO
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CALLED ME OUT HERE. WHAT'S WITH THAT REMARK? HONESTLY, YOU'RE BEING DISAGREEABLE AGAIN.
HM?
THE POSTER THAT WAS MENTIONED. IT SEEMS THAT IT RESEMBLES A MAN WHO FREQUENTLY COMES TO A FRIEND'S STORE
NO WAY!! YOU KNOW HIS NAME!?
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S HIS REAL NAME OR NOT, BUT IT SEEMS HE'S CALLED "TAKASHI" RECENTLY HE HASN'T SHOWN HIS FACE. SO IT'S PROBABLY USELESS INFORMATION
TO BE THOROUGH. TELL ME THE NAME OF THE STORE AND I'LL GO SEE

SORRY IF I'M WRONG
THANK YOU LET ME KNOW IF YOU RUN ACROSS ANYTHING ELSE
ANYONE AND EVERYONE IS RAISING A BIG FUSS ABOUT TAKUAKI GETTING STABBED...
IT'S HIS BUSINESS AT ANY RATE HE PROVOKES RESENTMENT ALL OVER THE PLACE... IT'S NOT PARTICULARLY STRANGE THAT HE SHOULD BE STABBED... EVEN I...
HMPH IT'S A JOKE
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM OF IT ENDING AT A JOKE!!
HEY!!

GUESS I HAVE TO PAY A SYMPATHY VISIT TOO WHERE'S THE HOSPITAL?
EVEN IF IT'S A JOKE, I CAN'T TELL SOMEONE WHO SAYS THAT KIND OF THING

THAT'S TRUE
GUESS IN ORDER TO PROTECT TAKAAKI, YOU CAN'T EVEN TRUST YOUR OWN FRIENDS. WELL, I ALREADY KNEW YOU WEREN'T MUCH OF A FRIEND ANYWAY
HEY! THAT WAY OF SPEAKING IS UNFAIR!
YOU WERE THE ONE TO UTTER UNBELIEVABLE REMARKS FIRST. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOSING YOUR TEMPER FOR, BUT QUIT IT WITH THE OUTBURSTS!
GULP
IT'S THE HOSPITAL OPPOSITE THE KOMA, ISN'T IT?

KENZAKI
HEH HEH
CAN'T HIDE ANYTHING, CAN YOU? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PROTECT TAKAAKI LIKE THAT?
I SAID NOT TA COME WIF ME!!
LIKE I SAID ARE YOU REALLY GOING FOR THAT REASON!? I'LL BE TROUBLED IF YOU RAISE A FUSS AT THE HOSPITAL!!

SHINKAWA

YO SHINKAWA. ON A PILGRIMAGE TO SEE TAKAAKI? HOW TOUCHING FOR YOU TO COME THIS LATE.
STAGGER
KENZAKI...
KENZAKI...
SAME TO YOU, WHY...
HM... WELL, I KINDA...

A GUY ENTANGLED IN THE BLIND PASSION OF A HOST LOVE TRIANGLE? OF COURSE THE MEDIA ARE PROBABLY GOING TO RAISE A FUSS YOU MAY AS WELL SUFFER ALONG WITH ME. HUH?
CRYING MYSELF TO SLEEP ALSO PISSES ME OFF. SO I CAME TO KILL TAKAAKI REAL QUICK
KENZAKI
EVEN MA LONG T MY COMPANION CHI
AND YOU EVERYONE PREFERS WEAK THERE'S NO WHO THINK OF MY FEELI
ESPECIALLY THIS GUY
IT'S ROOM 1215

IT'S HIS HOSPITAL ROOM. THOUGH I DON'T THINK YOU CAN GO IN RIGHT NOW
I'M SAYIN' I'VE COME TO KILL TAKAAKI. YOU KNOW? WHY' RE YOU TELLING ME HIS ROOM NUMBER!?
YOU DEFINITELY WOULDN'T DO THAT KIND OF THING SO THERE S NO NEED TO WORRY
YOU WON'T DO THAT KIND OF THING
WHAT IF I WAS IN A DISTURBED STATE!? OR ARE YOU THINKING I WOULDN'T HAVE THE GUTS!?

IS THERE REALLY SUCH IRONY-!?
DON'T SCREW WITH ME! YOU'RE SHOWING PITY FOR THE PARTNER YOU DUMPED AFTER SPEWING SUCH DOWNPLAY BEFORE...?!!
MORE THAN THAT I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE THINKING THINGS THAT AREN'T LIKE YOU
THIS GUY ISN'T A MAN TO WHO COULD LIE AFTER WEIGHING AGAINST THE DA... TO TAKAAKI
CLENCH
TO THINK THAT THIS ITSELF PROVES THAT WHAT HE S... GLOATE SAYING ISN'T A LIE!!
DON'T KEEP THINKING I'LL STAY IN LOVE WITH YOU FOREVER...!!

I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOU ANYMORE!!
EVEN SO THAT WON'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I LIKE YOU
WHAT A CRUEL MAN
YOU'RE THE WORST—!!

SORRY
WHY... ARE YOU SAYING SUCH THINGS TO ME NOW WHEN I'M IN THE WRONG...!!
IF YOU'RE SORRY THEN HATE ME! HATE ME COMPLETELY!!

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M SO NERVOUS SUDDENLY...
HOW STUPID. I WONDER WHY I AGREED TO THIS...
BUT IT WASN'T BECAUSE THIS GUY WAS THINKING OF ME HALF-HEARTEDLY
IT'S ENOUGH WITH THIS I CAN GIVE UP
IT'S MEANINGLESS HAPPINESS I CAN'T KEEP ON BEING ME AS A FRIEND
BECAUSE IF THIS IS THE EXTENT THAT I'M TORMENTING A GUY WHO WON'T BECOME MINE

ISHII? I SAW YOUR EMAIL FIRST. THERE'S NO MISTAKING HIM.
CLICK
I'LL SEND AROUND SOME PEOPLE FROM THE STORE. UNTIL THEN, STAY WITH HIM IF HE MOVES
I'LL BE HEADING THERE SOON MYSELF

Nakama

UV v2 ch11

credits:

Scanner: redwhing
Transer: zft
Cleaner: elliej
Editor: aripie
Qcer: immortalk

FINAL

IT'S TAKAISHI-KUN, RIGHT?
WHAT?
SORRY, BUT THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D LIKE TO HAVE A TALK WITH YOU. WILL YOU COME WITH US?

WHAT A MORON IF HE HADN'T RESISTED HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PUT THROUGH SUCH A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE
THAT MEANS EVEN THIS GUY IS DESPERATE...
ANYWAY, IT'S STRANGE FOR YOU TO HAVE COME LIKE I TOLD YOU TO
ME? WHY?

WELL IF I'M ASKED WHY—
IT HAS TO BE COMPLICATED... HARD TO SOLVE... ACT OUT HIS ROLE...
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM ALSO SAID AN OBSTACLE THINGS TO THE GUY YOU KNOW NO THING
I DIDN'T COME CAUSE I WAS COERCED I CAME BECAUSE I WANTED TO
I SEE... IT'S FINE IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, BUT...
—WE'VE POUNDED HIM LIKE THIS EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TURNING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE— WON'T THIS JUST END UP BEING TROUBLE FOR IWAKI?
WHAT'S THIS? IS HE COMING TO AGAIN?
TWITCH

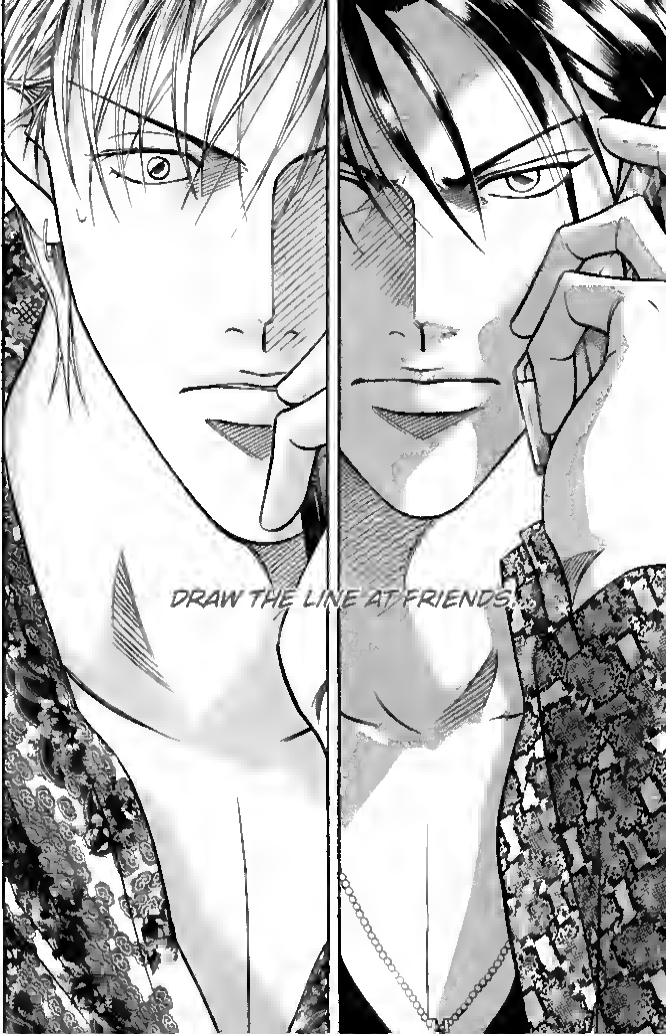
YOU'VE BEEN THINKING THAT TOO, RIGHT? RIGHT!?
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING! IF WE WERE JUST HANDING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE, WE WOULDN'T HAVE THIS KIND OF ROOM PREPARED.
...IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S DEAD OR ANYTHING, RIGHT? SO WHY THE BIG THEATRICS...!?
I GET IT! YOU GUYS ARE ALL BEING DECEIVED BY HIM!! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT HOST HOMOS OF KABUKICHOU!!
I HADN'T EVEN INTENDED TO KILL HIM! THAT'S WHY I USED A KNIFE AND I DIDN'T PULL IT OUT EITHER...!!

IWAKI-SAN ..!
LATER
YOU SURE CAN MOUTH OFF LIKE CRAZY AT A TIME WHEN ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!!
YOU ...
BASH

SLAM
CLATTER
YANK
YOU DIDN'T PULL IT OUT...HUH?
SHALL I TRY CRAMMING A KNIFE INTO THAT FLESH OF YOURS TOO?

BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT TEACH THE BODY OF SUCH AN UNIMAGINATIVE BRAT LIKE YOU
TOMORROW AT NOON TAKAAKI IS BEING RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL. THINK OF SOME KIND OF APOLOGY. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO EXPERIENCE ANYTHING MORE HORRIBLE THAN THAT!
IS THIS THE TIME TO KEEP SAYING THINGS AREN'T SETTLED, SHINKAW? THE ONE WHO WENT THROUGH ALL THAT IS PROBABLY THE WINNER, BUT TRY BOLDLY CONVEYING YOUR FEELINGS BEFORE IWAKI-SAN.
TAKAAKI IS BEING DISCHARGED TOMORROW AFTER SEEING WHAT IWAKI-SAN IS DOING FOR HIM. YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE

...AREN'T YOU MISUNDERSTANDING SOMETHING?
I'M NOT ACTING ON ANYONE'S BEHALF BUT MY OWN. I'VE NO INTENTION OF SCORING GOOD GUY POINTS AT THIS POINT!!
HOLD ON, KENZAKI I'M NOT SO SHAMELESS AS TO GET YOUR HELP WITH TAKAAKI SAN
I DON'T WANT TO DEPEND ON YOUR GOOD WILL ANYMORE I'M GOING TO ACT LIKE I NEVER HEARD THIS
WHEN YOU KEEP WAVERING ON YOUR OWN I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU UP.
IT'LL BE HARD IF THINGS GO ON LIKE THIS, SO I'M SAYING TO DRAW THE LINE AND MAKE ME A FRIEND!!


DRAW THE LINE AT FRIENDS

AS AN OBJECT OF ROMANTIC INTEREST, YOU'RE THE WORST... BUT AS A FRIEND YOU'RE NOT SO BAD
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU'RE TROUBLED BY OTHERS YOU'VE NEVER TRIED TO PULL TRICKS TO DEAL WITH ME QUICKLY... I HAVEN'T BEEN A PART OF YOUR CONSCIOUS TO USE WHEN YOU PLEASE
TO THE EXTENT THAT THERE WAS ALSO A TIME I STARTED TO TRY SELFISHLY TO SAY "I WANTED TO STAY WITH YOU " EVEN IF IT MEANT JUST KEEPING ME AS A PET UNTIL DEATH WHY I DIDN'T DO THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU'VE RESPECTED ME IN YOUR OWN WAY I UNDERSTAND THAT
THANKS TO THAT IT ENDED WITHOUT ME LOSING SOMETHING IMPORTANT AS A MAN EITHER TO THE POINT I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT NOW SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME ANYMORE
DOOOOO

KNOCK
KNOCK
YES?

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING DISCHARGED, TAKAAKI-SAN!
I'M SORRY GOOD THING IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE FINISHED GETTING READY
YOU'RE EARLY WEREN'T THE CELEBRATIONS ON BEING RELEASED SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE AFTERNOON?
I WAS CONTACTED BY IWAKI-SAN, SAYING THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED A BIT SO WOULD I PLEASE COME PICK YOU UP EARLY
KNOCK
THE SITUATION?

SHINKAWA, HUH?
STANDING IN KENZAKI'S POSITION... IF YOU'RE KEEPING THE PROMISE NOT TO SEE TAKAAKI, THEN THERE'S NO TIME TO COME BUT NOW, BEFORE THE DISCHARGE
YOU AREN'T SURPRISED I'VE COME, ARE YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS HIM? THE ONE WHO STABBED TAKAAKI-SAN

MY POSITION IS DIFFERENT THAN YOURS IWAKI-SAN ON TOP OF THAT I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE REASON HE WAS STABBED THERE'S NO MEANING IF IT'S BASED ON ASSUMPTION
FINE I'LL TRY STATING IT THE ORIGIN WAS TAKAAKI'S PLAYING WITH FIRE
SEES THROUGH EVERY-THING HUH
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THIS GUY?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF IT WERE YOU?
PLAYING WITH FIRE HUH? THEN TAKAAKI-SAN ISN'T ASKING FOR THIS KIND OF SITUATION IS HE? HE'S A PERSON WHO PAYS HIS OWN BILL FOR PLAY
SPEAKING ON THE EMOTIONAL SIDE I THINK I'D ALSO HAVE LOOKED FOR THIS GUY IF THE WORST HAD HAPPENED TO TAKAAKI, THIS GUY WOULDN'T BE ALIVE RIGHT NOW
SHIN-KAWA'S VOICE
I CAN PROBABLY SAY IT NOW BECAUSE TAKAAKI-SAN WAS SAVED BUT IF IT WERE ME I'D JUST PRESS HIM FOR HIS IDENTITY AND RELEASE HIM

CLATTER
MMPH
MMPH
NO ALTERNATIVES TO TURN HIM IN TO THE POLICE EVEN, HUH? YOU'VE BECOME PRETTY UNDERSTANDING THIS IS THE MAN WHO STABBED TAKAAKI, YOU KNOW?
WHEN YOU TALK OF MOTIVE FOR TURNING HIM IN, I'M IN NO POSITION TO THE ONE IN QUESTION IS TAKAAKI-SAN, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT A PERSON WHO WOULD WISH FOR THINGS THAT SMELL OF BLOOD. IN THAT CASE, IT'S BEST IF YOU SAY YOU'LL TIP OFF THE POLICE AT ANY TIME, UNDO THE BINDINGS AND DON'T LET HIM NEAR EVER AGAIN
KAZUOMI...! TAKAAKI-SAN!?
WHAT KIND OF LUKEWARM STUFF ARE YOU SAYING!?
HEY! KAZUOMI!!

IF YOU'RE THAT LAID-BACK ABOUT IT, I FEEL SORRY FOR TAKAAKI-SAN...! DO YOU EVEN GET HOW UPSETTING BEING STABBED IS ..?
IT'S NOT JUST THAT IT HURT OR THAT IT WAS SCARY! EVEN AFTER IT'S HEALED, AS LONG AS A SCAR REMAINS YOU REMEMBER!!
SINCE FOR ME IT'S ON MY FACE, EVERY TIME I LOOK IN THE MIRROR, EVERY TIME I'M TALKING WITH SOMEONE AND I NOTICE THEM LOOKING AT MY SCAR, I RECALL THAT SUFFERING!!
YOU GO AROUND TELLING PEOPLE THAT?

THERE'S NO WORK WHERE THE HOST'S LINE OF VISION IS READ ARE YOU GOING TO TALK ABOUT IT TO THAT EXTENT?
THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS WHO WILL COME PAY MONEY TO LISTEN TO THAT ACCORDING TO YOUR REASONING THE REASON FOR NOT GETTING CUSTOMERS OR NOT KEEPING THEM WILL BE NOTHING BUT THE FAULT OF THAT SCAR
NO ONE IS INTERESTED IN YOUR SCAR IF YOU DON'T LIKE BEING LOOKED AT LIKE THAT THEN JUST COVER IT UP
IF YOU DON'T COVER IT UP EVEN THOUGH TAKAAKI TAUGHT YOU HOW TO DO IT WHO IS GOING TO SYMPATHIZE WITH THOSE FEELINGS?
AH
THE SCAR HAS BECOME A PROBLEM IN DOING THIS WORK"
"I DON'T MEAN THAT WORRYING ABOUT APPEARANCES"
THE PROBLEM ISN'T THE SCAR IT'S THAT PATTERN OF THINKING WHERE YOU LAY THE BLAME ON SOMETHING CERTAINLY WHEN YOU LEECH ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHERS IT REDUCES THE RISK TO YOURSELF WHEN YOU FAIL

"IT'S ALL RIGHT..."
"SHINKAWA WILL TEACH YOU THAT"
BUT IT ISN'T BAD OPERATING WITH YOUR OWN RESPONSIBILITY YOU KNOW? BECAUSE THE ONES NOT BORROWING THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS WILL ALSO GET 100% OF THE GOOD ESTIMATION RETURNED TO THEMSELVES
CLACK
...SORRY TAKAAKI-SAN. I HADN'T INTENDED TO SEE YOU AGAIN
M-HUM
AH-!

I... I REALLY APPRECIATE THE FEELINGS WITH WHICH YOU FOUND THIS GUY FOR ME IWAKI-SAN,
BUT AS FAR AS THIS CASE GOES I WAS ALSO IN THE WRONG BECAUSE I NEEDLESSLY HURT HIS PRIDE
... IT SEEMS HE S ALREADY SUFFERED IN HIS OWN WAY AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME PLEASE RELEASE HIM LIKE SHINKAWA SAID

SHOVE
SHINKAWA
UWAH!
TAKE HIM WITH YOU
IT'S A PAIN SO DON'T HAVE ANY MORE DISPUTES
IWAKI-SAN...

I'VE FINALLY ENTERED YOUR STORE...
WAIT... TAKAAKI-SAN, JUST WHAT'S GOING ON...? DIDN'T YOU GO BACK TO HOW THINGS WERE BEFORE WITH IWAKI-SAN!?
IF-! IF THERE IS STILL SOME POSSIBILITY WITH ME...!!
IT HAS THAT NEW-STORE SMELL... I'M A LITTLE EXCITED.
SHINKAWA!

BEFORE TALKING ABOUT THAT, PLEASE LET ME CONTINUE WHAT I COULDN'T SAY TO YOU BEFORE WHEN I GOT CHOKED UP LAST TIME
THAT TIME I SAID IWAKI SAN IS OBVIOUSLY BETTER THAN YOU, RIGHT?
EVEN SO EACH TIME I UP UNTIL NOW I'VE CHOSEN YOU EVEN THOUGH IWAKI-SAN ALWAYS UNDERSTANDS ME AND OPENLY STOPS THE BLOWS
I THOUGHT ABOUT WHY THAT WOULD BE AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE ANSWER.

LOVE...?
ME...?
YEAH...
WE... NO, I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO END UP ON THE WRONG WAVELENGTH FROM SOMEWHERE BASIC...
I LOVE YOU, SHINKAWA.

...ME TOO...I WON'T RUN FROM THE PRESSURE OF BEING YOUR LOVER ANYMORE TAKAAKI-SAN
WITHOUT CONVEYING THAT...EVEN IF I TELL YOU NOT TO MISUNDERSTAND, IT'S USELESS... IF IT ISN'T TOO LATE NOW LET'S BECOME PROPER LOVERS FROM STEP ONE
NO MORE MISTAKING THINGS!...

NEVER AGAIN
I WON'T LET GO OF THIS MIRACLE AGAIN...
NH-! YOU DON'T MEAN HERE !?
DON'T WANT TO ? YOUR BODY MUST BE STIFF I WON'T FORCE THINGS

I DON'T MEAN I DON'T WANT TO IT'S JUST... THAT IS...
GRAB
AH!
I WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO YOU RIGHT NOW... I WANT TO TOUCH YOU!
SHIN...

SHINKAWA!
DON'T TEASE ME... WHY JUST ME-
I WANT TO FEEL YOU IN ME... SOON
THAT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL YOU MAKE A FULL RECOVERY...
FULL RECOVERY

...DOES IT BOTHER YOU AFTER ALL...? THE SCAR...
IT'S PAINFUL TO LOOK AT ISN'T IT...? I'LL COVER IT UP UNTIL IT FADES SO PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
EVEN A SCAR IN A PLACE THAT CAN'T BE SEEN LIKE THIS MAKES THE MOOD HEAVY... IT MUST HAVE BEEN INCREDIBLY HARDER FOR KAZUOMI
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID IT ISN'T... SHAME TO HAVE A SCAR LEFT ON YOUR LOVELY BODY...

TAKAAKI-SAN IT MUST'VE REALLY HURT...I THINK I'LL THINK UNPLEASANT THOUGHTS EACH TIME I SEE THIS SCAR
BUT...THANKS TO THIS WOUND BEING CLOSED YOU'RE NOW IN FRONT OF ME TAKAAKI-SAN...
SHINKAWA...
NO MATTER...
WHEN I THINK THAT I HAVE A STRANGE FONDNESS FOR THIS SCAR...

WHATEVER APPEARANCE HE TAKES, TAKAAKI-SAN IS LOVELY

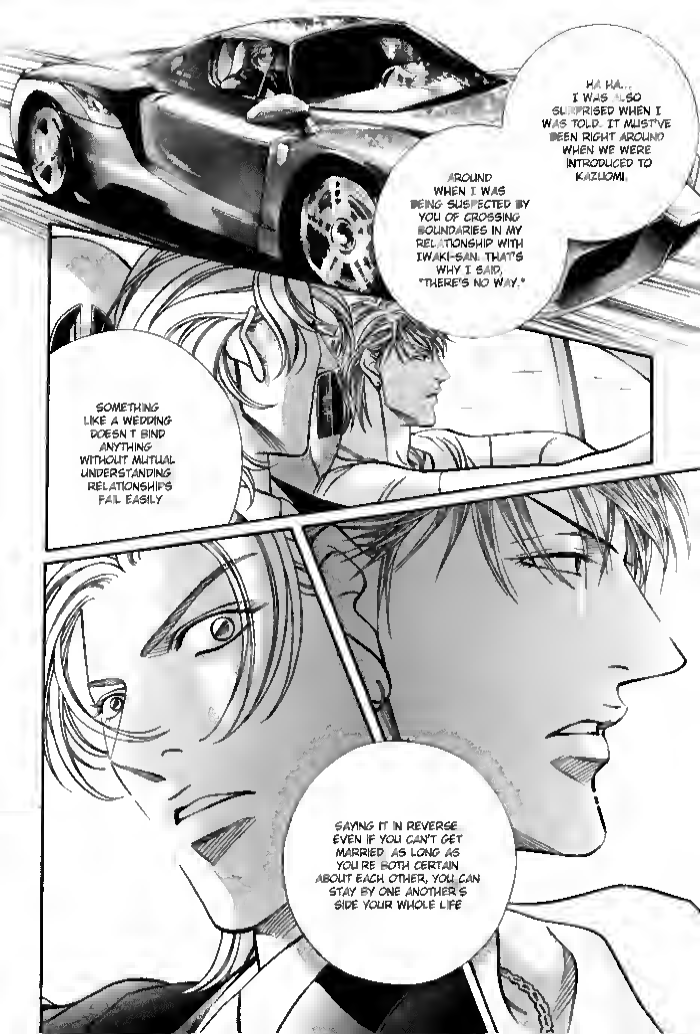
Ozaki Families
Maeda Wedding Reception
Banquet Hall
AH, I'M SO NERVOUS IWAKI-SAN, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH ME GIVING THE SPEECH AS THE BEST MAN?
ARE YOU STILL SAYING THAT? THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU. QUIT IT. I'VE ALREADY PREPARED MYSELF FOR THE WORST.
JUST DO IT THE WAY YOU ALWAYS WIN OVER CUSTOMERS. MAY AS WELL RECLAIM CLIENTS.
My relatives are rich, you know?
YEAH. STUDYING TO GET INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL WHILE BEING A HOST WAS IT? HE SAID SOMETHING RECKLESS AGAIN, DIDN'T HE?
THAT'S RIGHT. MY ELDER SISTER AND HER HUSBAND WERE SAYING THEY WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE MATTER WITH KAZUOMI. SO GIVE THEM SOME TIME LATER

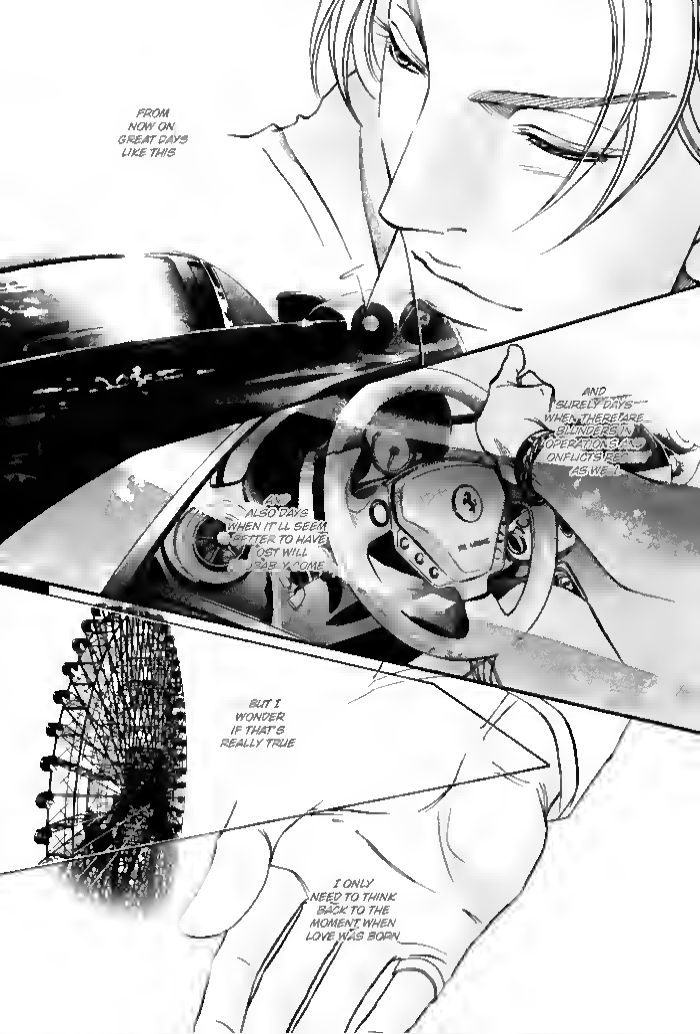
IT SEEMS HE'S AIMING FOR COSMETIC SURGERY. IF YOU'RE EVER STABBED AGAIN, HE'LL HEAL YOU BEAUTIFULLY.
HONESTLY IT'S NOT A JOB YOU CAN DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME WELL IT SEEMS HE'LL ALSO BE TRYING HIS BEST AS A HOST TO EARN INCOME FOR TUITION SO THEY'LL LET HIM DO AS HE LIKES
JUST HIS POSSESSING HIS OWN KIND OF MOTIVATION, SAYING HE WANTS TO DECREASE THE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE WORRYING ABOUT THEIR SCARS LIKE HE DID IS CONSIDERABLY BETTER THAN HOW THINGS WERE UP UNTIL NOW
SORRY I'VE NO PLANS TO GET STABBED AGAIN
GUESS IT'S BECAUSE SHE HAS THE SELF-CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF A CORPORATION WHEN MY PARENT SAID "MY SON ISN'T A RESPECTABLE MAN " SHE ANSWERED "YOUR OWN WORTH CAN'T BE INFLUENCED BY ANYTHING BUT YOURSELF "
SEEING HOW I'M GETTING MARRIED I'D BETTER NOT GET STABBED EITHER ANYWAY SHE'S A STRONG-WILLED WOMAN SAYING "LET'S GET MARRIED" TO A HOST LIKE ME

JUST BY DECIDING YOUR MARRIAGE SHE SEEMS LIKE A SHARP-WITTED WOMAN
IF YOU TURN THOSE WORDS AROUND IT'S LOOKING AT THINGS WITHOUT THE RESTRAINTS OF SOCIETY

OF COURSE NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS I'M ME

TAKAAKI-SAN!!
WHEN I HEARD IWAKI-SAN WAS GETTING MARRIED I THOUGHT "WHAT JOKE IS THIS?"


HA HA... I WAS SO SURPRISED WHEN I WAS TOLD. IT MUST'VE BEEN RIGHT AROUND WHEN WE WERE INTRODUCED TO KAZUOMI.
AROUND WHEN I WAS BEING SUSPECTED BY YOU OF CROSSING BOUNDARIES IN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH IWAKI-SAN. THAT'S WHY I SAID, "THERE'S NO WAY."
SOMETHING LIKE A WEDDING DOESN'T BIND ANYTHING WITHOUT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS FAIL EASILY
SAYING IT IN REVERSE EVEN IF YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED AS LONG AS YOU'RE BOTH CERTAIN ABOUT EACH OTHER, YOU CAN STAY BY ONE ANOTHER'S SIDE YOUR WHOLE LIFE


FROM NOW ON, GREAT DAYS LIKE THIS
AND SURELY DAYS WHEN THERE ARE BUMPERS IN OPERATION, AND CONFLICTS ARE AS WE...
ALSO DAYS WHEN IT'LL SEEM BETTER TO HAVE LOST WILL
BUT I WONDER IF THAT'S REALLY TRUE
I ONLY NEED TO THINK BACK TO THE MOMENT WHEN LOVE WAS BORN

"NICE TO MEET YOU, KAORU KUN."
"I'M RYOU TAKAAKI."
END

"I'd thought it was something lonelier."

This is what I felt while writing the final chapter. As I cut through storyboard, strangely refreshed, I felt, "My desire to draw these characters is really finishing all the drawings." (Or rather, finishing correcting the comic, finishing up the new drawings. And now, writing the afterword, I'm becoming sentimental./laugh While I feel that the final chapter of "Irokoi" is probably best as a landing point, I think having rushed into this series with Shinkawa as a leading part, that surely, to an extent, I wasn't able to consume the theme of this work seen in the book's title, "When a Man Loves a Man." To an extent, this "ura" is the "Final Chapter" of "Irokoi" drawn out.

Ten years. This was the time I was concerned with Takaaki and Shinkawa, and, coming in late, Iwaki, Kenzaki and Ishii. Even when associating with someone in an ordinary way, if you've been together for over ten years that is attachment in itself. Since I've come to face them seriously as people I've created in their thoughts and actions, in my case, attachment isn't the word for it.

I end up concerning myself with imagining how their lifetimes go after this, but the readers will also imagine it and now all of that will also be true. When you concern yourselves with their lives for even a bit of an extended period, there is no greater happiness than this.

It has come to the end, but I am grateful to the Hanaoto editorial department who understood my work throughout the long serialization and really allowed me to draw freely.

And thanks from the heart to the readers who supported me as well. Thank you for reading with pleasure over the long years!

Youka Natta

Nakama

UV v2 ch12 [final]

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YOUKA NITTA
新田祐克
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